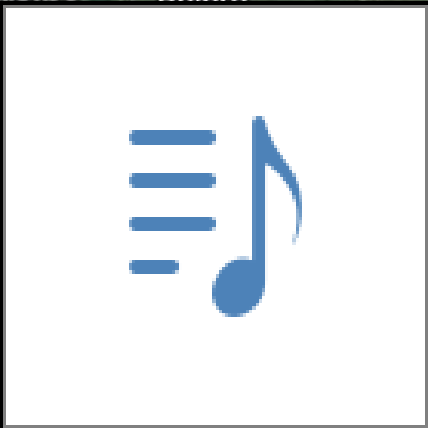
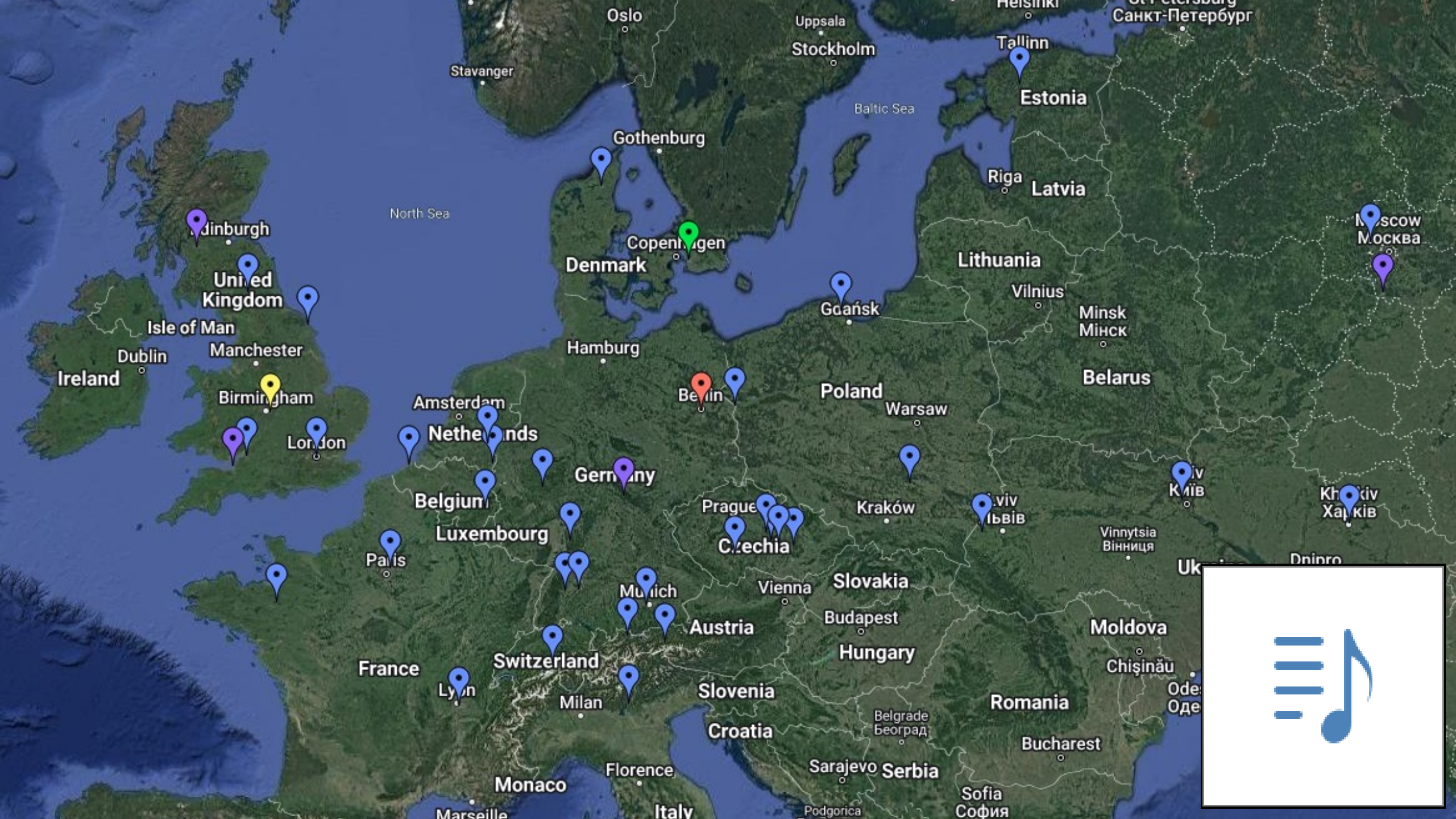


32 Years of EuroFurries

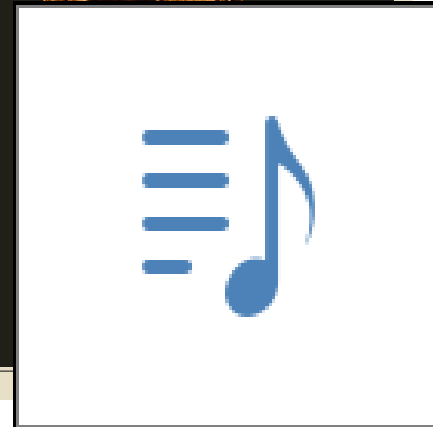
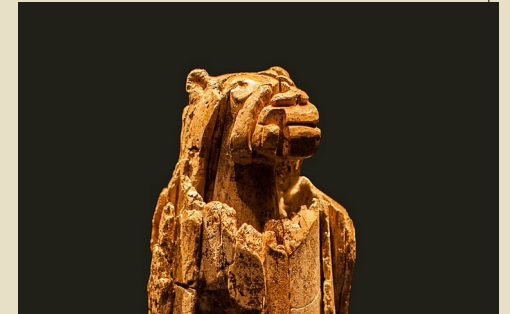
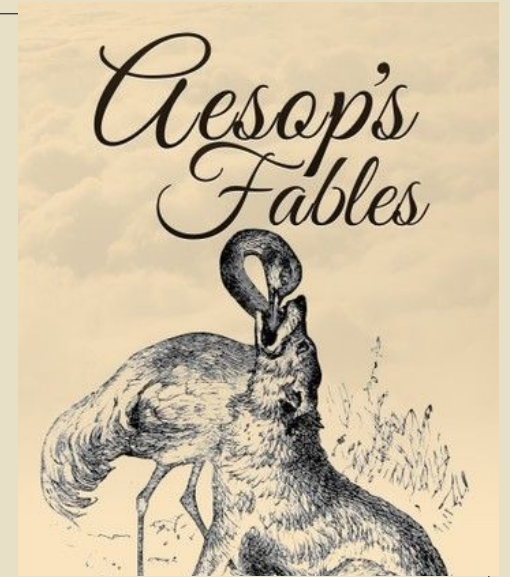
A brief history of the European furry fandom
By Gamepopper





Before the furry fandom...

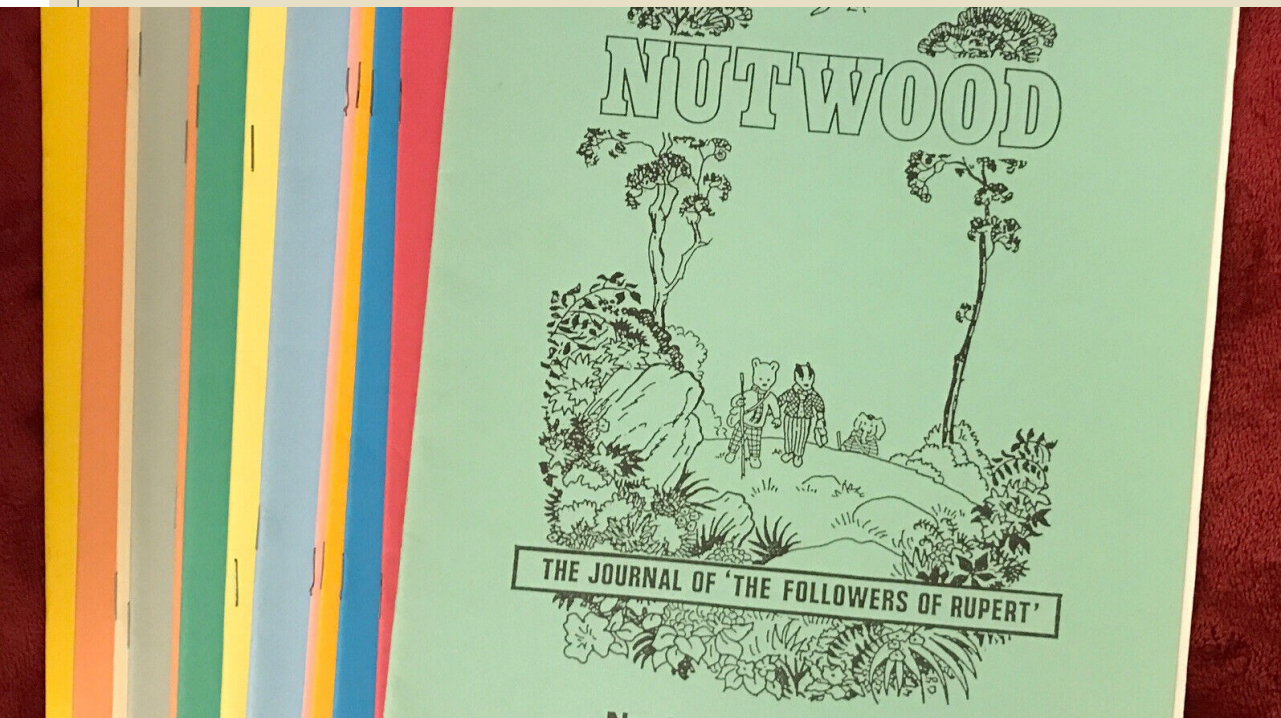
- Anthropomorphic art and stories have been around in Europe for centuries.
- Religious Symbols
- Fables & Folklore
- Fictional Storytelling
- Satirical Cartoons





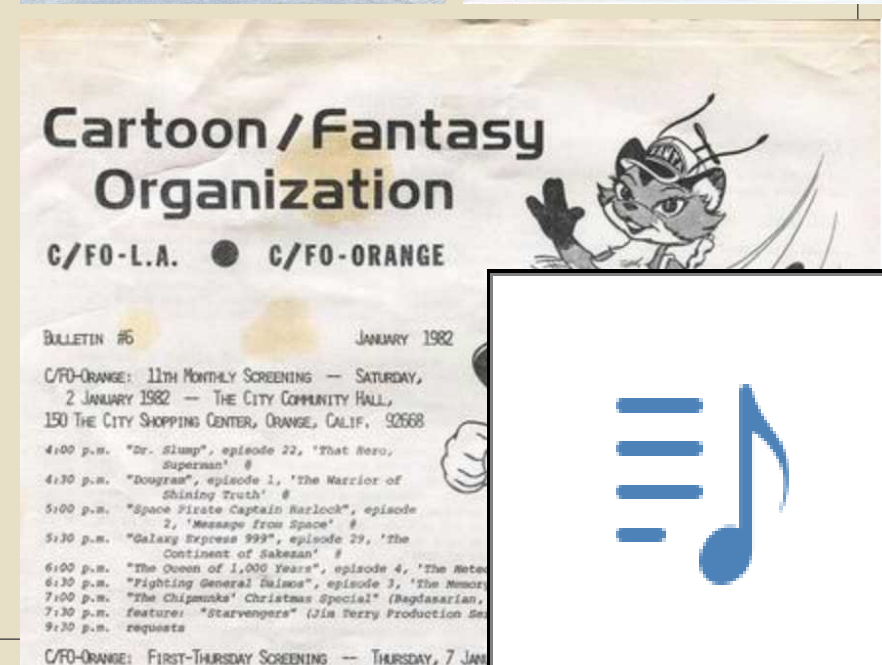
Before the furry fandom...

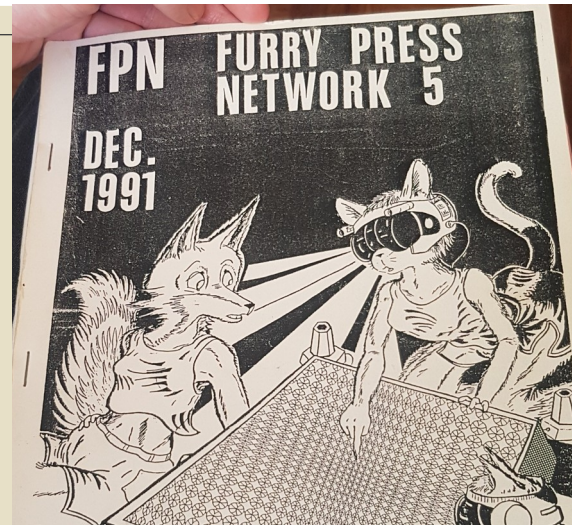
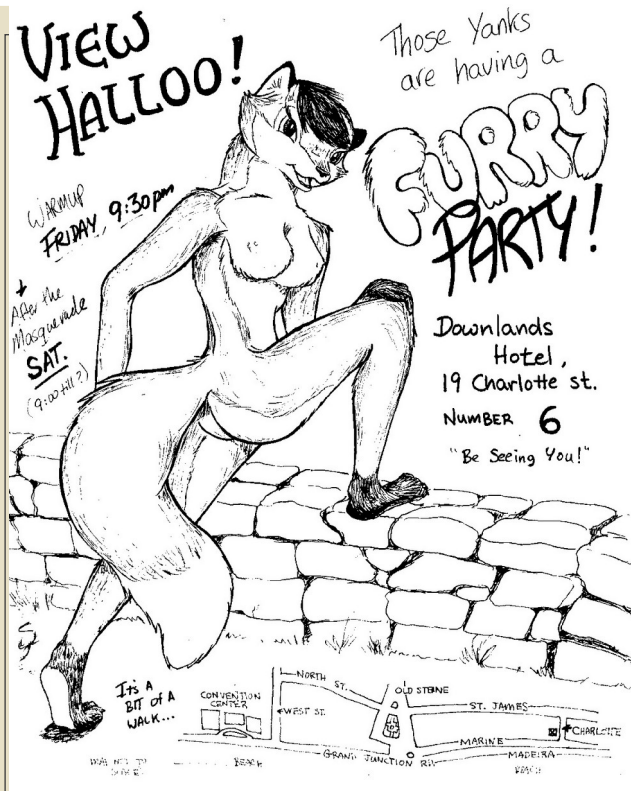
- Fandom communities
 - Science Fiction
 - Comics
 - Anime
- A few fandoms does exist for specific anthropomorphi in Europe.



Origins of the Furry Fandom

- Cartoon Fantasy/Organisation
- Funny Animal Comics
 - Vootie
 - Rowrbrazzle
 - Albedo Anthropomorphics
- Furry Parties
- ConFurence





How did the fandom reach Europe?

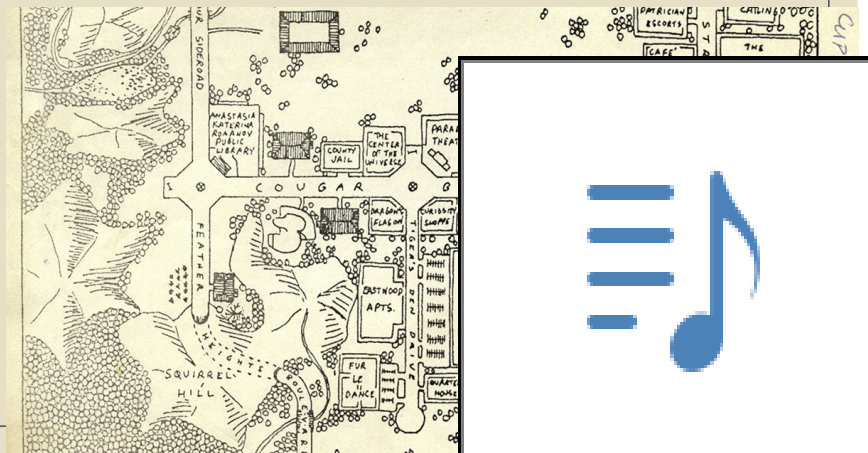
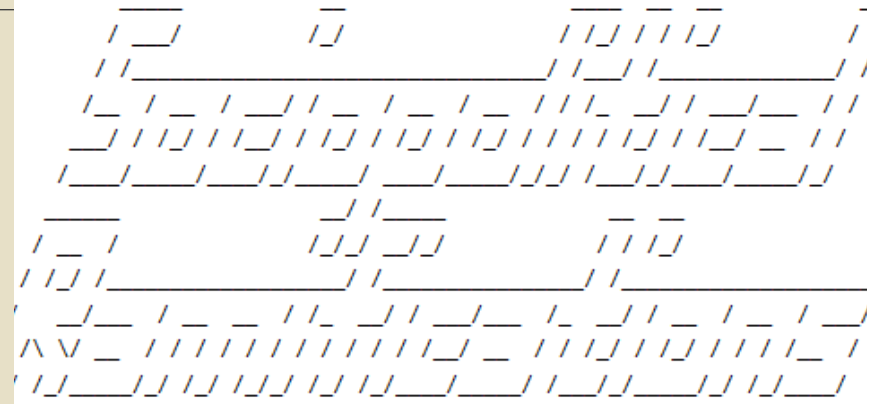
- Some European SF/Comic fans travelled to the United States.
- Furry Party at Conspiracy '87 in Brighton, UK.
- Imported Funny Animal Comics.
 - This often led to readers writing letters to fellow subscribers or becoming members of fanzines/APAs
- Furry Housecons
- By accident...

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOMORPHICS



Things changed thanks to the Internet

- ◉ FidoNet (BBS)
- ◉ alt.fan.furry (Usenet)
- ◉ FurryMUCK
- ◉ SPR

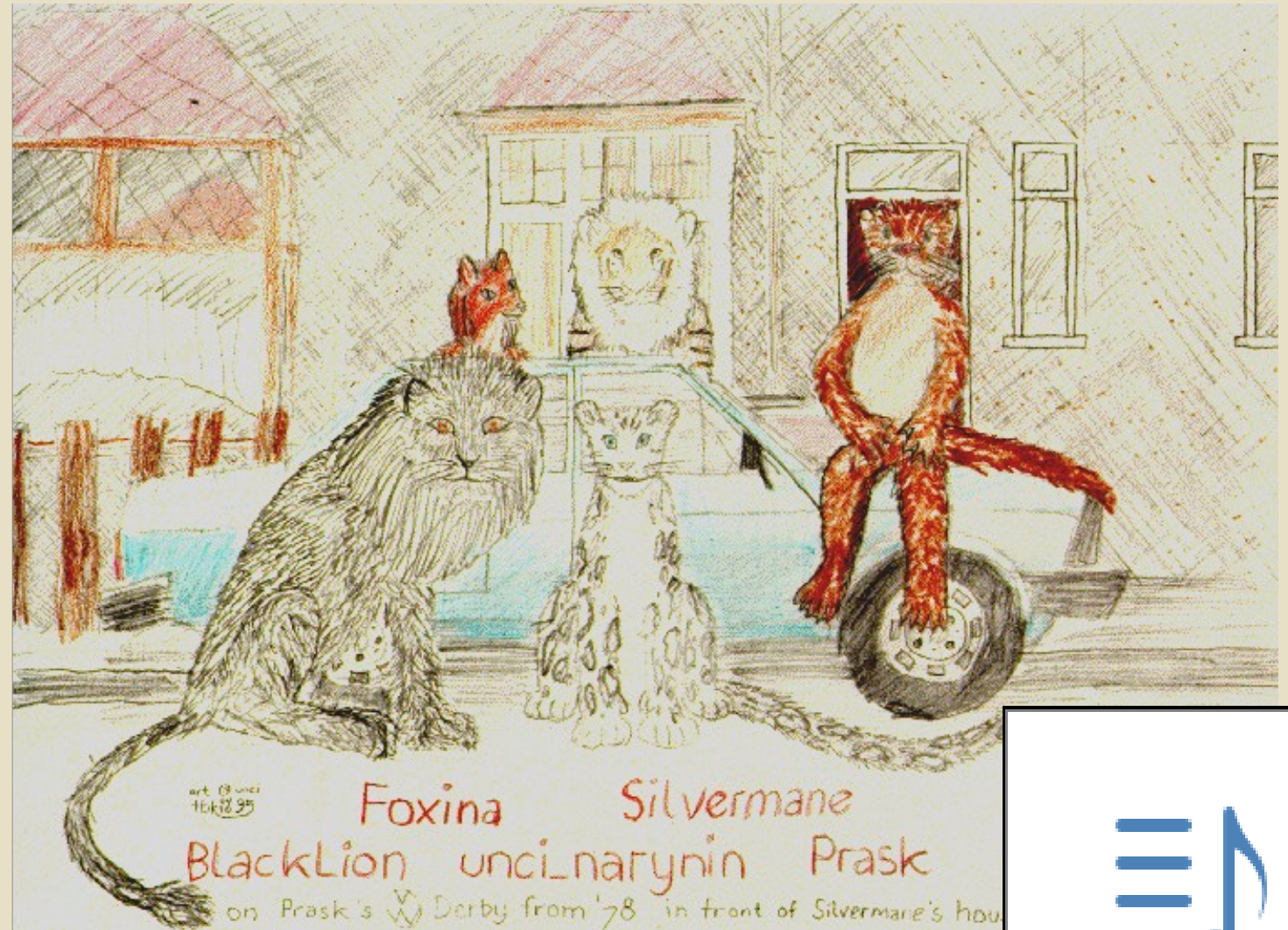


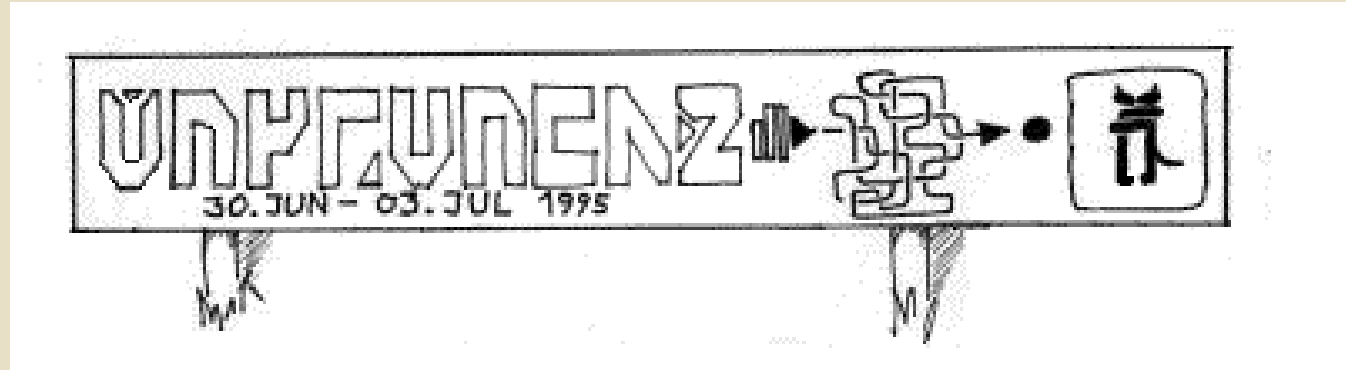
Things changed thanks to the Internet

- UK Fur Con - Annual gathering ran by Foxy & Prask.
 - First one July 1994, 10 - 15 people attended, including one American and one German fur.
- Tes-Tui-H'ar sent messages to his friend in Germany, Unci, back home through FurryMUCK.



“[Eurofurence] was partly a reaction to UK FurCon I, a spontaneous meeting of furies in late 1994 that I unfortunately could not attend (I had not heard of it until it was actually running). Also, in 1995 I took part in UK FurCon II in Bristol.” – Unci (2003), *Ten Years of Furryness*





“There was some talk in the park today about a get together of all European furrys. I am maintaining a list of euro-furries ... and there are dozens; mostly in Britain, some in Sweden and Germany, some in Finland and some elsewhere.” – Unci (November/December 1994)

- ◉ Kaiser Wilhelm-Koog (~60 miles from Hamburg)
- ◉ 19 Attendees
- ◉ Activities include watching furry videos, drawing in sketchbooks, and an excursion along the beach.



The EuroFurries Mailing List

At EuroFURence #1 someone mentioned the concept of a european furries' mailing list. I thought that this would be a good way to keep contact and to organize future meetings and EuroFURences.

After spending a large fraction of my spare time to choose the right Mailing List Manager (the finalists were "Majordomo" and "Black Marble Wombat" - I finally chose the latter one, not just for its suitable name!) and to configure it to run safely on our server, I am now ready to invite participants to the list. – Yorg (1995)

◦ Meanwhile...

- First furry-dedicated Internet Relay Chat service, unfortunately named YiffNet.
- In Feb 1996, EuroFurence became organized.
 - Hurga, Heribert, Cheetah and Unci part of organization



◦ July 18 - 22 1996
in Rydsskolan, Ryd,
Linköping, Sweden

- 35 Attendees
- Had its own video room
- Activities like martial arts demonstration, and a trip to Kolmarden Zoo.





CabinCon



Eurofurence Organization Centre

How organizing Eurofurence used to work...

- Attendees and European furries can suggest start/end dates, locations, art to the centre for the upcoming Eurofurence.
- If feasible by the Organization Team, it would be put

First attempted for Eurofurence 3, and it worked...mostly.



EUROFURENCE 3

- ◉ The only viable location suggested (by Whitepelt) was a school building in Bingen am Rhein (Germany), announced in Feb 1997.
- ◉ In May, it turned out the building was not available during the July week that was voted on.
- ◉ Vogt found a new location in Bodstedt. Cheetah had to push the date back.



EUROFURENCE 3

Cheetah hosted the convention on
21 - 24 August 1997 at
Freizeitanlage Seeräuber in
Badstedt,
59 Attendees

This was the first Eurofurence to
have an art show and dealer's den!

...and a fursuit!



EUROFURENCE 3

Die Unabhängige für Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

OSTSEE ZEITUNG



Ribnitz-Damgartener Zeitung

Wochenendausgabe 23./24. August 1997

Nr. 196 / 45. Jahrgang - 1,20 DM / C 4686 A

Internet-Fans begegnen sich in Bodstedt

Bodstedt. Sie kennen sich bisher nur vom Computermonitor – die 58 Internet-Freaks aus elf Ländern, die an diesem Wochenende im Bodstedter Ferienhaus „Seeräuber“ in der Dankwardtstraße zu Gast sind. „EuroFurence 3“ nennt sich die Begegnung von Leuten, die ansonsten in diversen Internet-Gruppen (zum Beispiel in „de.alt.fan.furry“) kommunizieren. Dabei entstanden in der Ferne des weltweiten Netzes Freundschaften und der Wunsch, sich persönlich zu begegnen.

Die „EuroFurence“, deren drittes Treffen nach Begegnungen in Cuxhaven und im schwedischen Linköping nun an der hiesigen Boddenküste veranstaltet wird, ist ein europäischer Ableger der riesigen SciFi- und Fantasy-Treffen in den USA.



Sorry,
Cheetah.



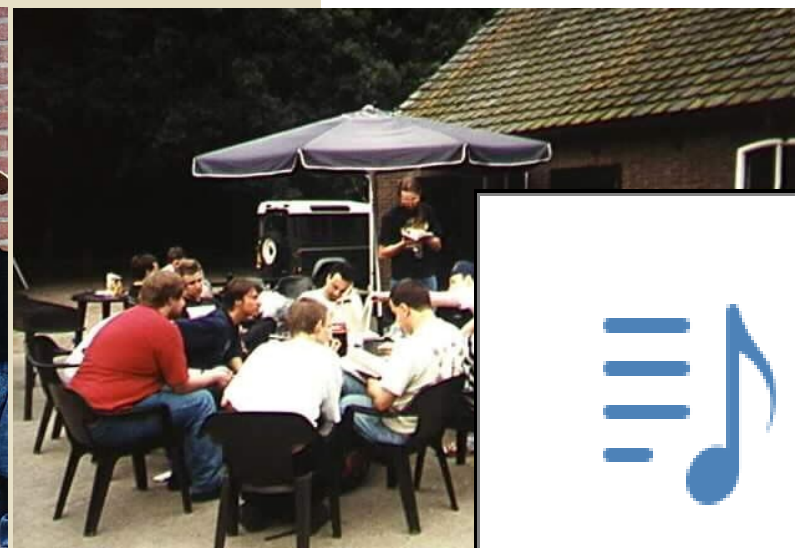
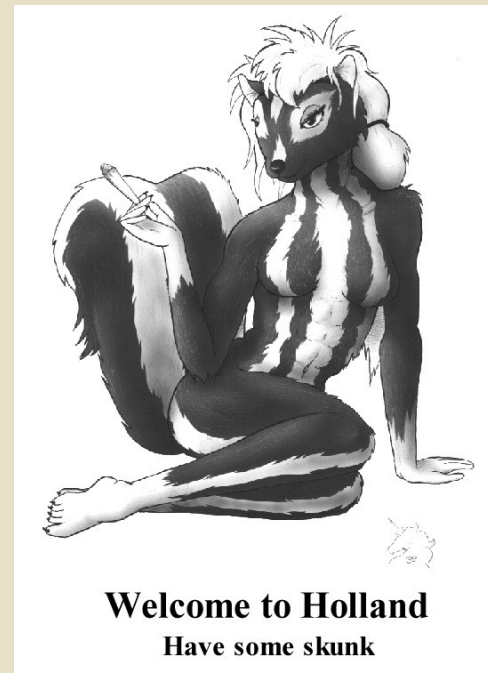
What was also going on in EuroFurries...

- Yateley Housecon and UK Fur Con were still going
- Furry produced publications like AnthropoMORPHINE, Fur Scene, and Wild Side published in the UK.
- Therians had an annual meetup called EuroHowl in Wales





- August 1 – 5 1998, Ferme de Jean in Heeze, Netherlands (near Eindhoven)
- 94 attendees
- Organized by Samarindus and Naros



New Events

◉ Mephit MiniCon

- ◉ Around twenty furs were invited to the apartment of H'Lven in Hesse, Germany.
- ◉ First ever non-English convention. It was German speaking (und mein Deutsch ist Scheiße ☹)

◉ ZillerCon

- ◉ Skiing/Snowboarding Event that started at Zillertal in Austria by Keepiru.
- ◉ It continued annually in different outdoor sites in Austria (except in 1999, when it was in Switzerland).

◉ LondonFurs

- ◉ Started as an informal gathering by a group of furries at Hertfordshire University, such as Ia'Kat and Vexen Crabtree, in March 1998.
- ◉ Became a tri-weekly meeting of furries in London in 1999. The first furmeet.



Speaking of Furmeets

- Tired of travelling to London all the time, furries in other regions of the UK began hosting their own furry regional groups beginning in 2000, with regular furmeets in different cities on rotation.
 - NorthernFurs
 - MidFurs
 - HantsFurs
 - ScotFurs
 - CardiffFurs
 - NOTzFurs







Lion King creating furries

- Russia
 - Russian Lion King fans found each other on FidoNet in 1998.
 - They'd meet up in person, often in Moscow thanks to Ukiwa owning his own apartment.
 - Ukiwa's birthday party on February 26 1999 became the start of an annual gathering in Moscow called RusCon.
- Netherlands
 - Dutch fans had their own TLK mailing list called Dutchpride.
 - Dutch Furries branched off into their own Mailing List, and the DutchFurs IRC channel.
 - This would later lead to the creation of DutchFurs.



Conventions in 1999

- EuroFurence 5 - Müggelsee (Germany) - 112 attendees
 - Other possible locations - Sikea (Sweden), Neuendorf (Germany)
- RusCon 0 - Moscow - 6 attendees
- Mephit MiniCon 2 - Falken Jugendheim, Seeheim (Germany) - 28 attendees

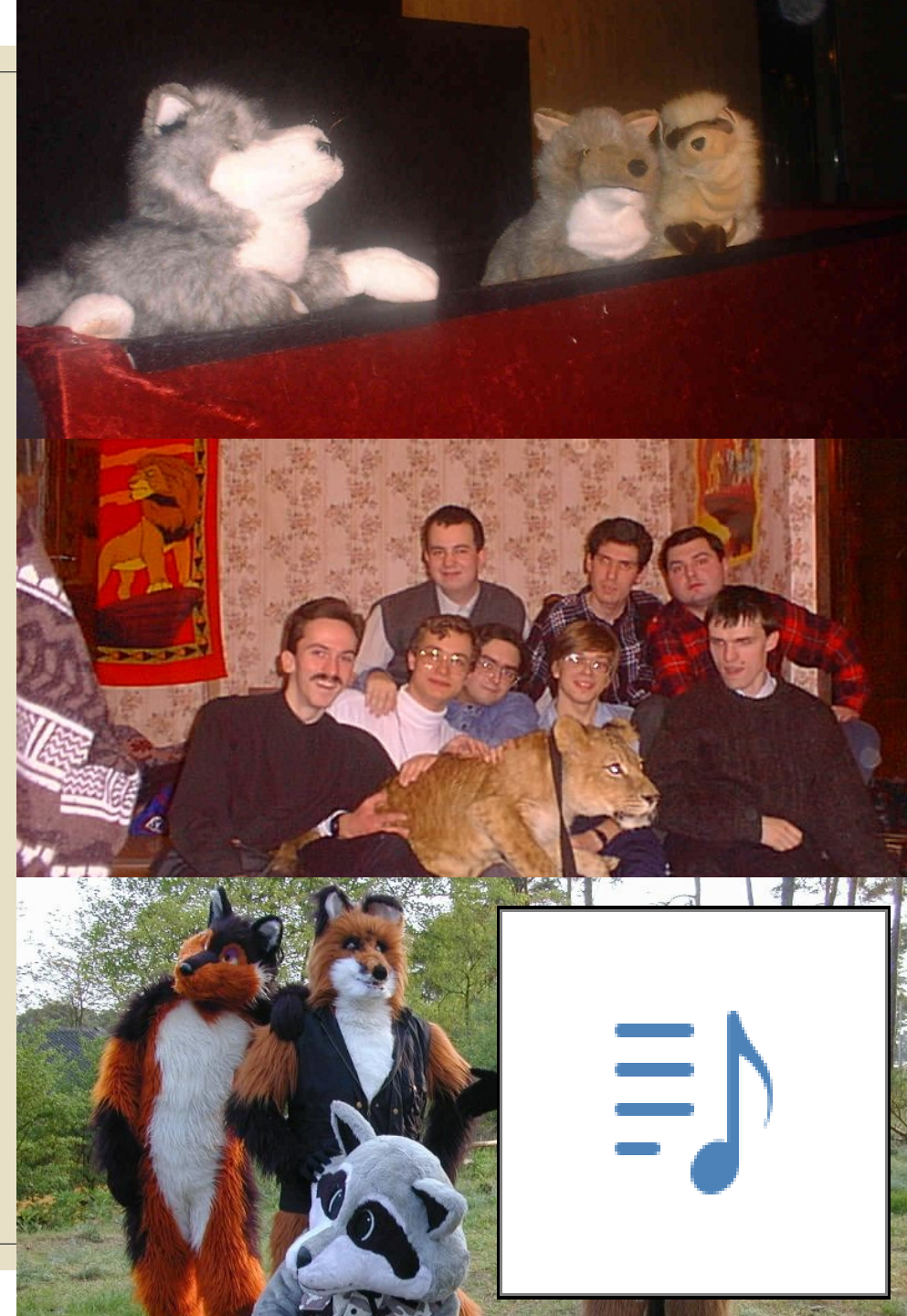


MEPHIT-M
2



Conventions in 2000

- EuroFurence 6 - Jugendherberge Goettingen (Germany) - 160 attendees
 - Other possible locations - Fulda (Germany), Zebb (Germany), England
 - Fairlight debuted the Eurofurence PawPet Show
- RusCon 2000 - Moscow - 8 attendees + Molly (a lioness)
- Mephit MiniCon 2K - Falken Jugendheim, Seeheim (Germany) - 35 attendees



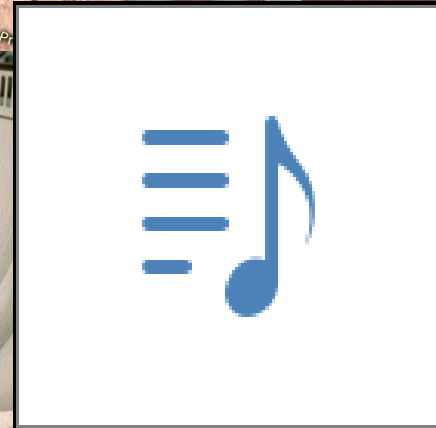
Conventions in 2001

- ◉ EuroFurence 7 - Freusburg Castle (Germany) - 230 attendees
- ◉ RusCon 2001 - Nash Arbat, Moscow - 23 attendees + leopard
- ◉ Mephitis MiniCon 4 - Falken Jugendheim, Seeheim (Germany) - 40 attendees



Conventions in 2002

- ◉ EuroFurence 8 - Jugendherberge Oberbernards (Germany) - 260 attendees
 - ◉ Other possible locations - Bleijerheide (Netherlands) and Hannover (Germany)
 - ◉ Theme: The F.I.A (Furry Intelligence Agency)
 - ◉ Guest of Honor: Uncle Kage (Chairman of Anthrocon)
- ◉ RusCon 2002 - Nash Arbat, Moscow - 40 attendees + Prince (a lion cub)
- ◉ Mephit MiniCon 5 - Lorelei Rock, Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany) - 69 attendees



“Why is it always in Germany?”

- In the lead up to Eurofurence 8, people online complained that Eurofurence was always in Germany.
- They claimed Unci's intended Eurofurence to take place in different nations every year.
- As such, submissions for Eurofurence 9 were opened in April 2002.
 - Approved submissions would be posted on a bulletin board and an event to present them. (Assuming there was more than one good entry)





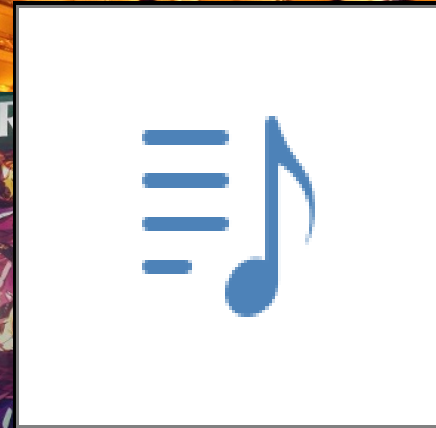
Eurofurence IX
- Cunning little Vixens -

- August 21 - 24 2003, Samopše, Czech Republic
- 165 attendees
- Theme: Cunning Little Vixens
- Despite lots of technical issues, main stage being a giant tent, there were the Gameshows, PawPets, Video Room, BBQ and other events EF attendees would have wanted.



Eurofurence

- After Eurofurence 10 (Youth Hostel Biggese, Germany), Eurofurence moved away from location submissions.
- They've been a strictly German convention ever since:
 - Nuremberg Castle (2005 & 2006)
 - Ringberg Suhl (2007 - 2009)
 - Maritim Magdeburg (2010 - 2013)
 - Estrel Berlin (2014 - 2022)
- It remains the largest furry convention outside of North America.



More new conventions

- FranFurence – May 2003 in Chaumes-en-Brie, France.
 - First planned after EF7, but the EF9 location announcement motivated its existence.
- ČeSFuR – March 2005 in Březová nad Svitavou (Czech Republic)
- New Years Eve 2005 gathering in Lviv (Ukraine).
- Cologne FurDance – June 2008. First furry dance event in the world!

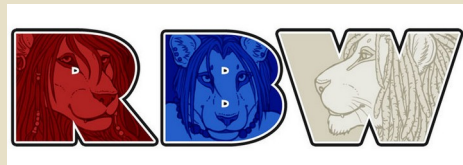


Poland

- Furstock – Furmeet at the Przystanek Woodstock starting in 2005
- Gdakon – Furmeet in Gdansk beginning in 2007
 - Became a full convention in 2011.
- Futrzakon - Debuted in 2008 as Poland's premier convention.
 - Later replaced by Futerkon in 2012



United Kindgom

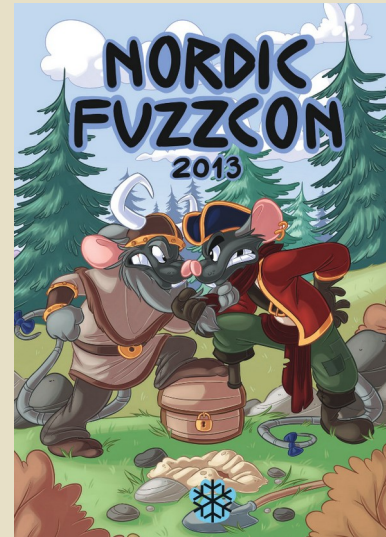


- Several failed attempts to start a convention in the 2000s.
- ConFuzzled debuts in Manchester (England) May 2008 as their premier convention.
- LondonFurs hold a boat party in December 2006.
 - After selling out, returns in 2007 as an extended furmeet called RBW.
 - RBW becomes a full-fledged furry convention in 2008.
- UKFurRave began in August 2010, renamed Frantic Eufuria in 2011.
- ScotiaCon debuts in Inverness (Scotland) in 2011.

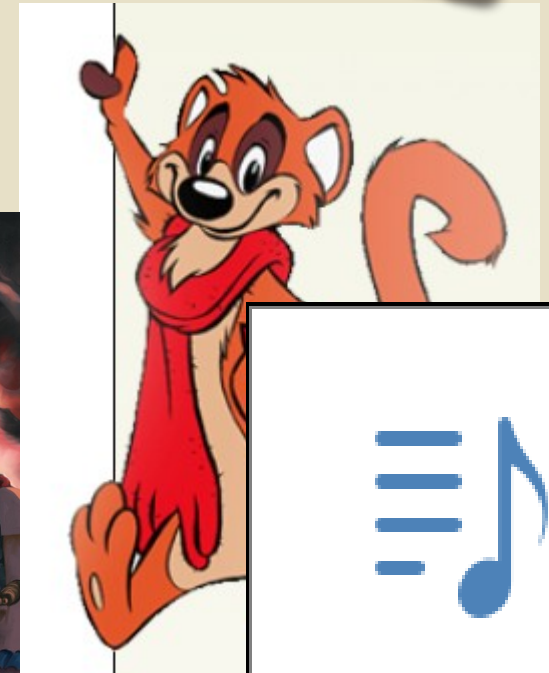


More premier events

- Furtastic - Denmark - 2011 - Present
- FinFur Summer Camp - Finland - 2011 - 2014
- Furry Weekend Holland - Netherlands - 2011 - Present
- Zampacon - Italy - 2012 - 2017
- NordicFuzzCon - Sweden - 2013 - Present

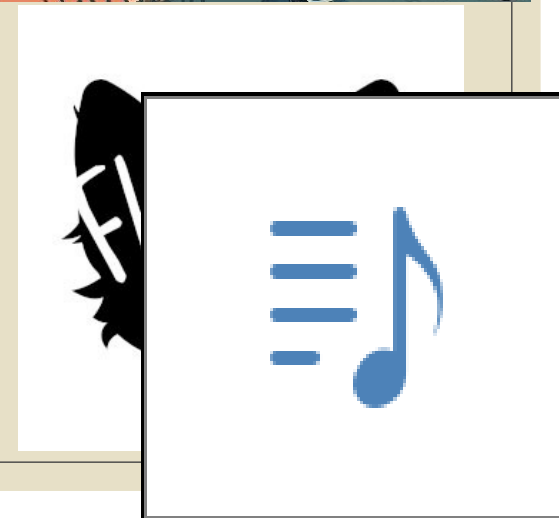


FUR-TASTIC



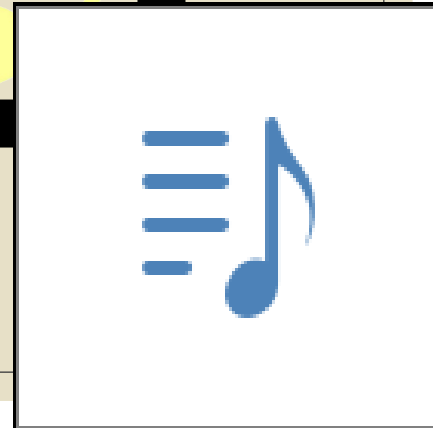
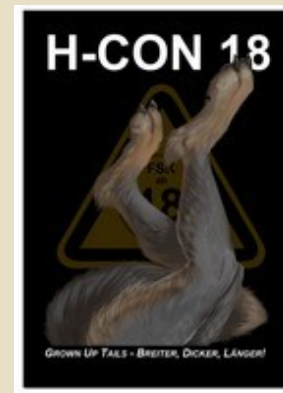
More premier events!

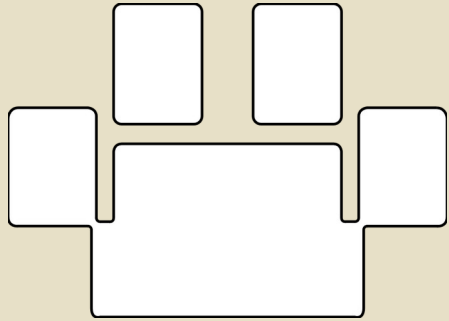
- Fursang - Hungary - 2015 - 2020
 - Became a convention in 2020
- FinFur Animus - Finland - 2015 - Present
 - Superceded FinFur Summer Camp to be a full con.
- Furway - Norway - 2016 - Present
- Furrnion - Spain - 2017 - Present
- Fluufff - Belgium - 2017 - Present
- FurryEST - Estonia - 2019 - Present
 - Furry Camping Event
- AnthroIrish - Ireland - 2023



Germany

◦ There are also plenty of other conventions in the country:





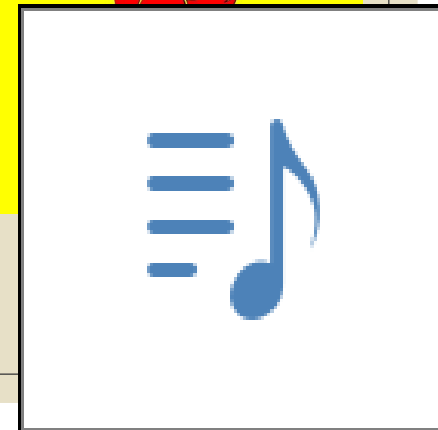
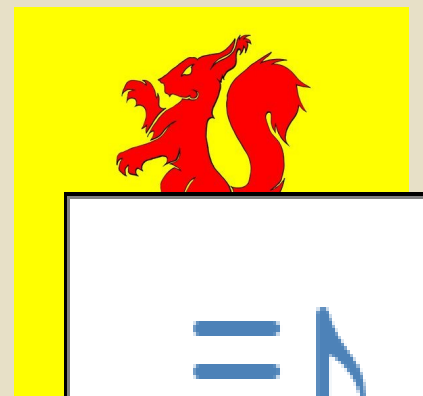
United Kingdom



- Although RBW suddenly cancelled after 2010, both ConFuzzled (Birmingham, England) and ScotiaCon (Glasgow, Scotland) have been going strong.

FUR
CATION

SPACE: THE FINAL FUR-RONTIER



NEW
FURIZONS

France

- FranFurence was cancelled after FranFurence 4 in 2007.
- FranceFurs.org became a central hub to organise meets, such as Fursuit/Furry BlackLight, which grew from an annual meetup in 2013 to a full convention.
- Now they have five conventions!

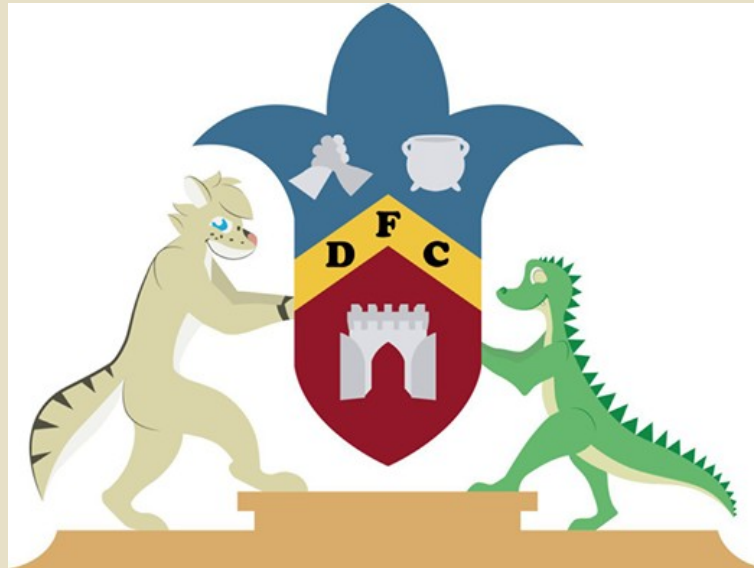


 AnthroPomme

fauntastic



Netherlands



Czech Republic



ČESFUR 2022



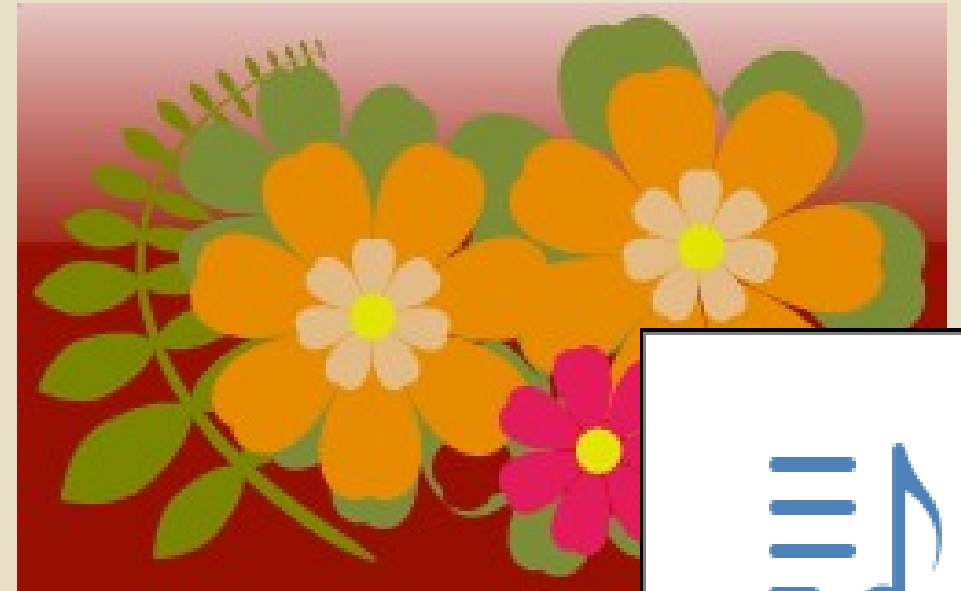
Russia

RUSFURENCE'19 SUMMER NIGHT

28 АВГУСТА - 1 СЕНТЯБРЯ
RUSFURENCE.RU



Ukraine



So many more



SNOW 
TAILS
2023



How many EuroFurries are there?

- 1990: Around 10 – 20
- 1995: Around 100
- 2000: Few hundreds
- Eurofurence 27 attendance was 2661.
- ConFuzzled 2023 was 2661.
- NordicFuzzCon 2023 was 2281.

Today: In the thousands...



Thanks for Listening

◦ Further Reading:

- United Kingdom: **Check out my book** 📖
- EuroFurence: archive.eurofurence.org
- NordicFuzzCon: archive.nordicfuzzcon.org
- France: francefurs.org
- Poland: polfurs.org

Sources:

- alt.fan.furry
- Furry Fandom Conventions by Fred Patten
- ConFurence Archive
- Rivercoon (Youtube)
- Fursuit Archive (archive.fursuit.me)
- Tigress.com
- The Wayback Machine

